

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4656

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, SF, WA, US, UK, FR, UN

SUBJECT: EMBASSY COMMENTS ON VORSTER'S WINDHOEK SPEECH

REF: CAPE TOWN 573

1. IN HIS SPEECH AT WINDHOEK (REFTEL) PRIME MINISTER VORSTER
ANNOUNCED NO NEW DEPARTURES FROM SAG'S POLICIES TOWARD NAMIBIA,
NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR TIMETABLE LEADING TO SPEEDIER RESOLU-
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TION OF NAMIBIAN PROBLEM, NO IMMEDIATE POSITIVE INNOVATIONS

IN RACE RELATIONS. HE SAID NOTHING THAT COULD BE TAKEN BY OUTSIDE WORLD AS AN EARNEST OF HIS INTENTION TO RESPOND MEANINGFULLY TO DEMANDS OF UN AND OAU OR TO SUGGESTIONS OF U.S., U.K., AND FRANCE IN THEIR TRIPARTITE NOTE. VORSTER AND THOSE WHO SUPPORT HIM SEEM TO BELIEVE THAT HE STAKED OUT A POSITION OF EMINENT REASONABLENESS, A POSITION NOT INTENDED TO INVITE HARSH REACTION, BUT TO SHOW HOW WILLING SOUTH AFRICA IS TO TAKE THE RIGHT STEPS TO LEAD NAMIBIA TO INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DISRUPTION. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER VORSTER'S UNRESPONSIVENESS TO OUTSIDE OPINION ON NAMIBIA REFLECTS AN INADEQUATE UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE AND EMOTIONAL INTENSITY OF INTERNATIONAL VIEWS OR A STUBBORN DISREGARD FOR VIEWS THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES KNOW TO BE IN OPPOSITION TO THEIR OWN PLANS FOR NAMIBIA.

2. IN HIS OBLIQUE REFERENCES TO SUBSTANCE OF TRIPARTITE AIDE MEMOIRE VORSTER, AS EXPECTED, SAID INHABITANTS OF NAMIBIA INDEED ARE BEING GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY ON CONSTITUTIONAL FUTURE--PROPOSED MULTRACIAL CONSTITUTIONAL TALKS WILL PROVIDE VEHICLE FOR THIS. BUT THERE COULD BE NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE FROM ANY QUARTER IN THIS MATTER, AND UN SUPERVISION IS UNACCEPTABLE.

3. AS FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S WITHDRAWAL FROM NAMIBIA, VORSTER FUDGED THIS BY SAYING SOUTH AFRICA DOES NOT OCCUPY THE TERRITORY BUT IS THERE "BECAUSE THE PEOPLES OF THE TERRITORY WANT US THERE."

4. HE STATED THAT SAG AGREED THAT ALL POLITICAL GROUPS BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE WITHOUT HINDRANCE IN PEACEFUL POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. AND, CONTINUING TO REFER INDIRECTLY TO SUBSTANCE OF THE TRIPARTITE AIDE MEMOIRE, HE SAID WHETHER OR NOT THE TERRITORY BECOMES INDEPENDENT AS ONE STATE OR IS SPLIT UP WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE VARIOUS "POPULATION GROUPS."

5. VORSTER REPEATED HIS INVITATION TO AFRICAN LEADERS TO VISIT NAMIBIA IF THEY WISHED, AND INDICATED THAT IF AFRICAN CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA AND SPECIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMITTEE OF OAU WANT TO DISCUSS SWA WITH HIM, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND ALSO TO ASK THE "REAL LEADERS" OF SWA TO TALK TO THEM. WHILE ALSO WILLING TO RESUME TALKS WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF UNSYG, HE WAS STILL NOT PREPARED TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ROLE CLAIMED FOR UN AS A WHOLE OR FOR SWAPO.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT VORSTER'S SPEECH PROVIDES FURTHER

EVIDENCE THAT SAG'S INTENTIONS FOR NAMIBIA REMAIN VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED: THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE THAT WILL BE CONVOKED MAY HAVE "ALL OPTIONS OPEN" TO IT, BUT ITS COMPOSITION ALMOST CERTAINLY ENSURES THAT SOME KIND OF CONFEDERAL ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE THE AGREED SOLUTION FOR NAMIBIA'S FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE. THIS CONFERENCE WILL NOT GET UNDERWAY UNTIL LATE THIS YEAR AT EARLIEST. OVAMBOS CAN EITHER OPT FOR SEPARATE STATUS OR REMAIN IN CONFEDERATION, BUT ONLY WITH POWER NOT RPT NOT COMMENSURATE WITH OWAMBO'S LARGE POPULATION. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE A CONFEDERATION IN WHICH THE WHITES' INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE STRIPPED AWAY FROM THEM--I.E., A CONFEDERATION IN WHICH NO ONE GROUP COULD BE DOMINATED BY OTHERS--IT APPEARS THAT THE WHITE AUTHORITES WILL MAKE HASTE SLOWLY TO DO AWAY WITH SOME OF PRESENT RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES. HOW FAR THEY GO IN THIS REGARD WILL DEPEND ON WISDOM AND INFLUENCE OF MEN LIKE DIRK MUDGE, SENIOR MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF SWA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, AND VORSTER HIMSELF.

7. IN SPEECH, VORSTER ALSO WAS REASSURING WHITES, ESPECIALLY BUSINESSMEN, IN NAMIBIA. IN PORTION OF HIS SPEECH NOT CONTAINED IN REFTEL HE DEALT AT SOME LENGTH WITH ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF SWA AND SAID THERE NO REASON FOR BUSINESSMEN TO BE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT SITUATION. SOME OBSERVERS HERE HAVE SPECULATED THAT PURPOSE OF SPEECH WAS TO PREPARE WHITES FOR MORE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES THAT SAG INTENDS TO PURSUE SOON. WHILE THIS IS CONCEIVABLE, WE SEE NO EVIDENCE ON WHICH TO BASE THIS EXPECTATION.

8. THE BASIC POSITIONS ON NAMIBIA WHICH VORSTER SET FORTH IN HIS SPEECH APPEAR NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WHICH SAG HAS HELD FOR MANY MONTHS. RATHER THAN ESTABLISHING AN OPENING POSITION FOR NEGOTIATION PURPOSES, WE BELIEVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VORSTER IS SIMPLY TELLING WORLD AT LARGE AND PEOPLE AT HOME THAT HE HAS REASONABLE POLICY ON NAMIBIA AND INTENDS PROCEED ON HIS OWN TERMS AND NOT THOSE OF OUTSIDERS.

9. UNLESS SWA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MOVES QUICKLY TO DO AWAY WITH SOME FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (AND THIS UNLIKELY--SEE CAPE TOWN 562), IT WOULD APPEAR THAT UNSC WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH A BASICALLY UNCHANGED SITUATION IN NAMIBIA SINCE IT PASSED DECEMBER 24 RESOLUTION. BOWDLER

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